KAORI ASANO'S

Vanity Angel

VENUS COMICS™

5 JAN. 1995

$2.95 U.S.

$3.95 Can.

Manga

ADULTS ONLY

ANTARCTIC BLAST
JANUARY 1995

MEDICAL RECORDS

by JOE DUNN,M.D.

Ten years ago the world was a different place. A republican was occupying the White House, REVENGE OF THE NERDS was in the theaters, and the dollar was worth a lot more. The comic industry was also a different place. The face of the comics industry was changed by direct sales and the black and white glut. Why all the nostalgia all of a sudden? Well, ten years ago, Antarctic Press first started publishing.

Ten years ago Antarctic Press was a different place. The office was a converted carport and storage room. Our first computer was a $2500 super computer called a Macintosh Plus. The first employee made $50 a month. The first comic was made entirely from newsprint, cover and all. Ahh, the good old days. Things have certainly changed since then. We survived the gluts, the speculations, and the bankruptcies other companies seemed to fall prey to all too often. I could keep on talking about the past and what we did that allowed us to persevere, but I believe our actions speak louder than any words.

Instead, let's talk about the future. What do I see in the future?

At Antarctic Press I see an ever-growing company, striving for alternatives and seeking diversity. I see more recognition and acceptance from the fan press. I see improving quality and higher standards. I see better relations with our fans and retailers. Of course, I predicted the same things ten years ago and will predict the same thing ten years from now. If we do not continue to fulfill those prophecies, we will have failed as a company.

In the comics industry I see continued flux. The industry is still ill-defined and will require time to feel itself out. The industry will continue to downsize to a few companies publishing a variety of works and expand to a hundred creator-owned companies, each publishing its one title once every month or two. I predict the continued exploitation of the finite comic book dollar where demand for one comic will cause the failure of another. The industry has for the most part failed to get more readers into the market. How many times have you seen a movie or driven a car or eaten at a restaurant that you fell in love with and recommended to a friend? Can the same thing be said about the comic book industry? How many times do you see people around a water cooler talk about how innovative, creative or thought-provoking a comic book was? Within the industry we talk among ourselves, patting ourselves on the back and handing out meaningless awards to each other showing how good we are. How many people outside the industry have heard of the Harvey, the Eisner, or a CBG award?

Is the industry an entertainment medium? If so, we have failed to show the same success and progress as music, movies, books and television. Is the industry a commodity, where you can make a quick buck? I don't think comics will replace gold or stocks or frozen concentrated orange juice as a viable commodity, and the speculation glut of the past certainly proves it. So where do we end up? My statements are not meant to insult the industry, for without it this company would not exist, but to show that my predictions are based on cold reality.

I wish I could predict what will happen in the world. I know that the republicans are in power, crime is getting worse, and I pay too much in taxes. All I can hope is that there won't be another REVENGE OF THE NERDS movie.

—Joe Dunn

HEY! WHO'S THIS "FRED PERRY" THAT'S DOIN' NHS!?!?

by mpc

That's right, the indomitable **Fred Perry** will be taking over ***Ninja High School*** for the next two issues (# 44 and 45). This frees **Ben Dunn** to work on his latest creation, ***Warrior Nun Areala,*** a full computer-color comic.

But just who is Fred Perry? Well, if you've been following Antarctic Press with any regularity, you know that Fred Perry is the creator/artist of ***Gold Digger***, one of AP's coolest and most popular comic books. Fred's not only one of the nicest guys in comics, but he's also one of Antarctic Press' fastest artists. What's his secret? We really don't know, but if we found out we would all be rich!

Let's welcome Fred to NHS!

A completely unretouched photo... Really!!

Fred Perry in a recent photograph taken at a comic book store signing right here in San Antonio Texas. By the time the photographer focused and his flash went off, Fred had finished the sketch he started and six pages of Gold Digger.
His last comment was "Ah! be Baaack."

CHECK OUT ANTARCTIC PRESS' other releases*
*subject to change

- ☐ Ninja High School #44 (Fred Perry)
- ☐ Private Beach #1 (David Hahn)
- ☐ Mangazine #37 (in color!)
- ☐ F III Bandit #1 (Ippongi Bang)
- ☐ Konny and Czu #3 (a must buy!)
- ☐ Furrlough #25
- ☐ Best of Furrlough #1
- ☐ Tigers of Terra #8
- ☐ Shanda The Panda #7
- ☐ Dodekain #3
- ☐ Silbuster #8
- ☐ Knightmare #4
- ☐ Nick Ryan, The Skull #2
- ☐ Battle Binder Plus #3 (Venus)
- ☐ Vanity Angel #5 (Venus)
- ☐ Velvet Touch #6 (Venus)
- ☐ Genus #10 (Venus)
- ☐ Cheeta Pop #3 (Venus)
- ☐ Bondage Fairies #4 (Venus, relist)
- ☐ Mangazine #5 (relist)

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Author : Kaori Asano
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First published in Japan in 1992 by Fujimi Publishing Co., Ltd.,Tokyo
English translation rights arranged through NIPPON SHUPPAN HANBAI INC.,Tokyo
Translation © 1995 Sima LiaoT'aiLang / Rimiko Sawada
Lettering : Shon Howell
Touch Up : Nebel Ungen

MUNCH
CHOP
CHOMP
MMMM... GOOD!
AN' THIS ... AN' THIS... GREAT!!

JESUS!
HE EATS LIKE...
A GORILLA!
WHOA, HE SURE EATS A LOT!
IT'S FUNNY!

EAT MUNCH CHOMP DEVOUR DEVOUR STUFF DEVOUR GURGLE

DELICIOUS!!

HEY, GIRLS, THIS'S GREAT!!

HE'S EATING CAKE WITH SAKE!!

EVEN WITH MY SWEET TOOTH, SEEING HIM EAT SO MUCH SUGAR IS MAKING ME SICK!

HE'S EATEN FIVE BROWNIES, FIVE FRUIT TARTS, TEN LAYERED CHEESE CAKES, 10 CREPES,

THREE PUMPKIN PIES AND ONE ONE-FOOT-DIAMETER APPLE PIE!!

LET'S FEED HIM SOME MORE!

ARE YOU OUTTA YOUR MIND?!!

HE'LL DIE FROM DIABETIC SHOCK!

BUT I WANNA SEE HOW MUCH HE CAN EAT!

MAYBE A WHOLE HORSE-RADISH PIE?!

GIRLS!

CAN I GET ANOTHER ONE OF THESE WITH APPLES?!

SURE!

YATTAH!

TRY THIS! IT'S THE DISPLAY APPLE PIE!

BOTTOMS UP!

THUMD

NO!

GEE... UM.... THIS IS *WAY* TOO MUCH.... UM... MAYBE NEXT TIME...

I'VE HAD ENOUGH FOR TODAY...

THD THMP THMP

HAVE YOU FOUND HIM?!

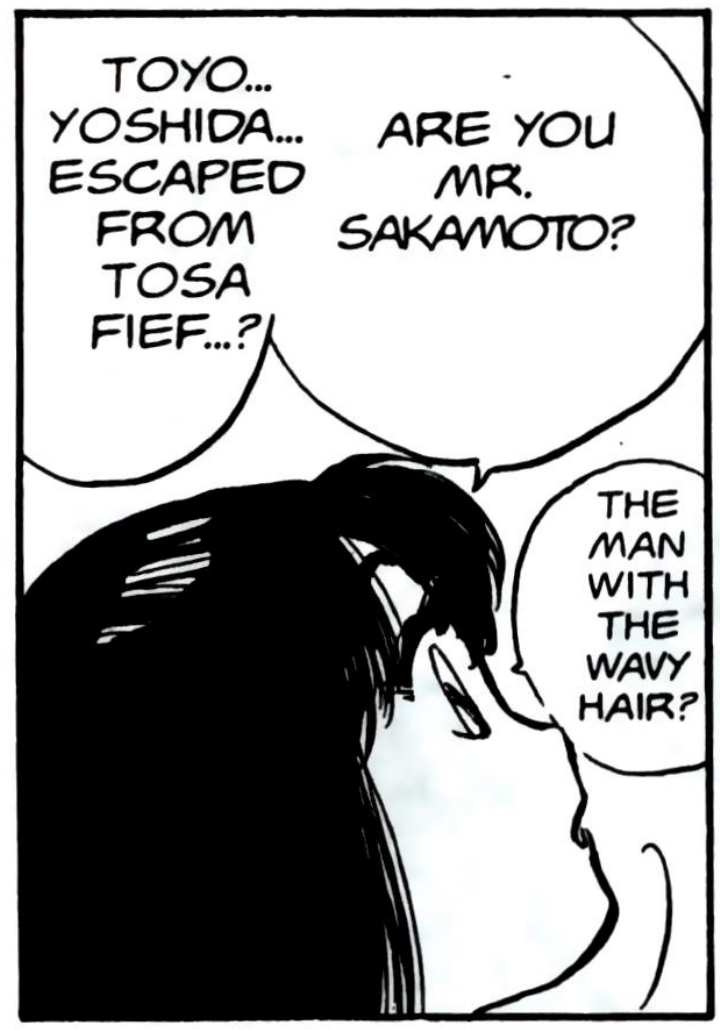
NO!

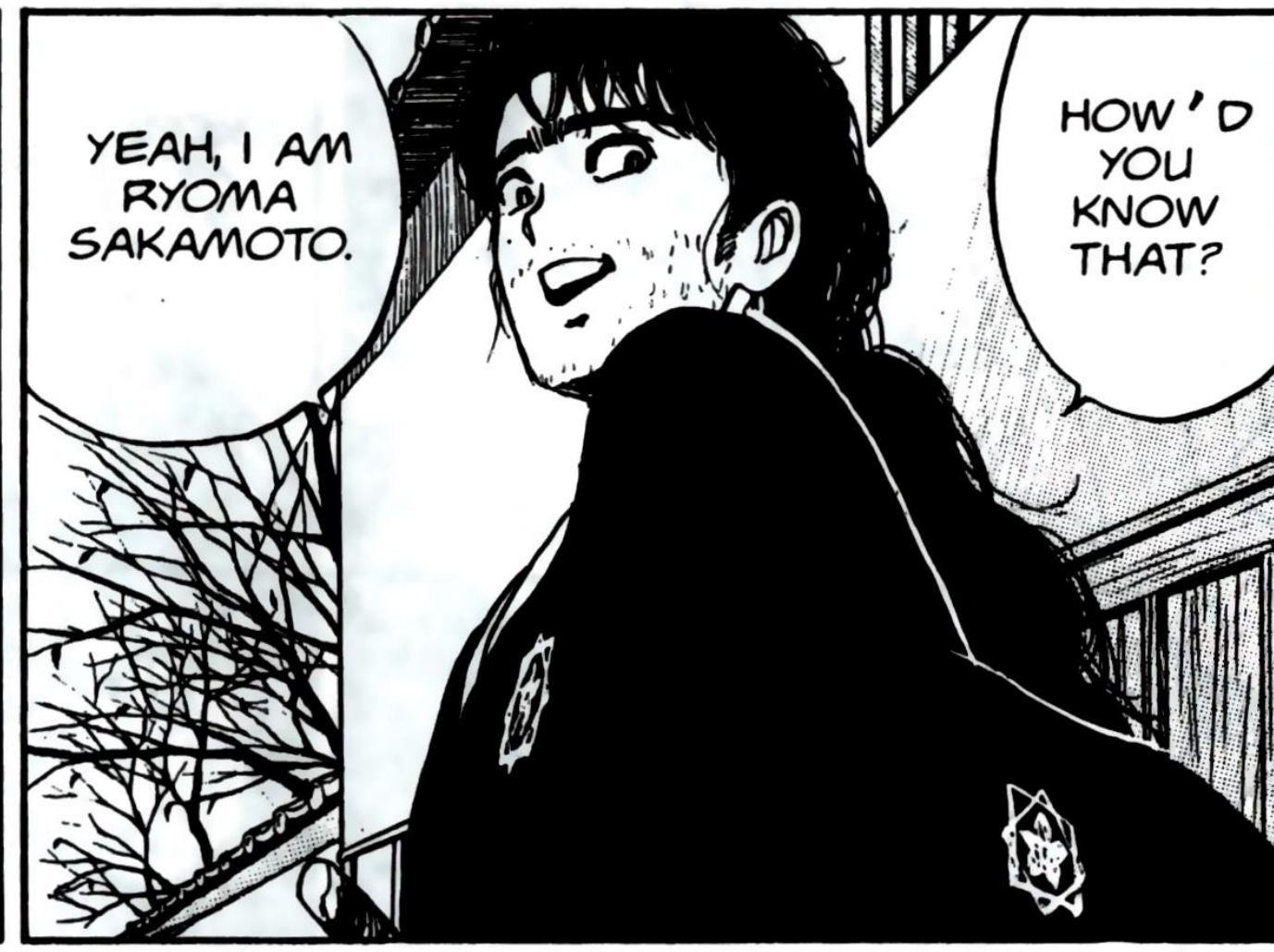
SEARCH THAT WAY!

WHAT'S THAT?

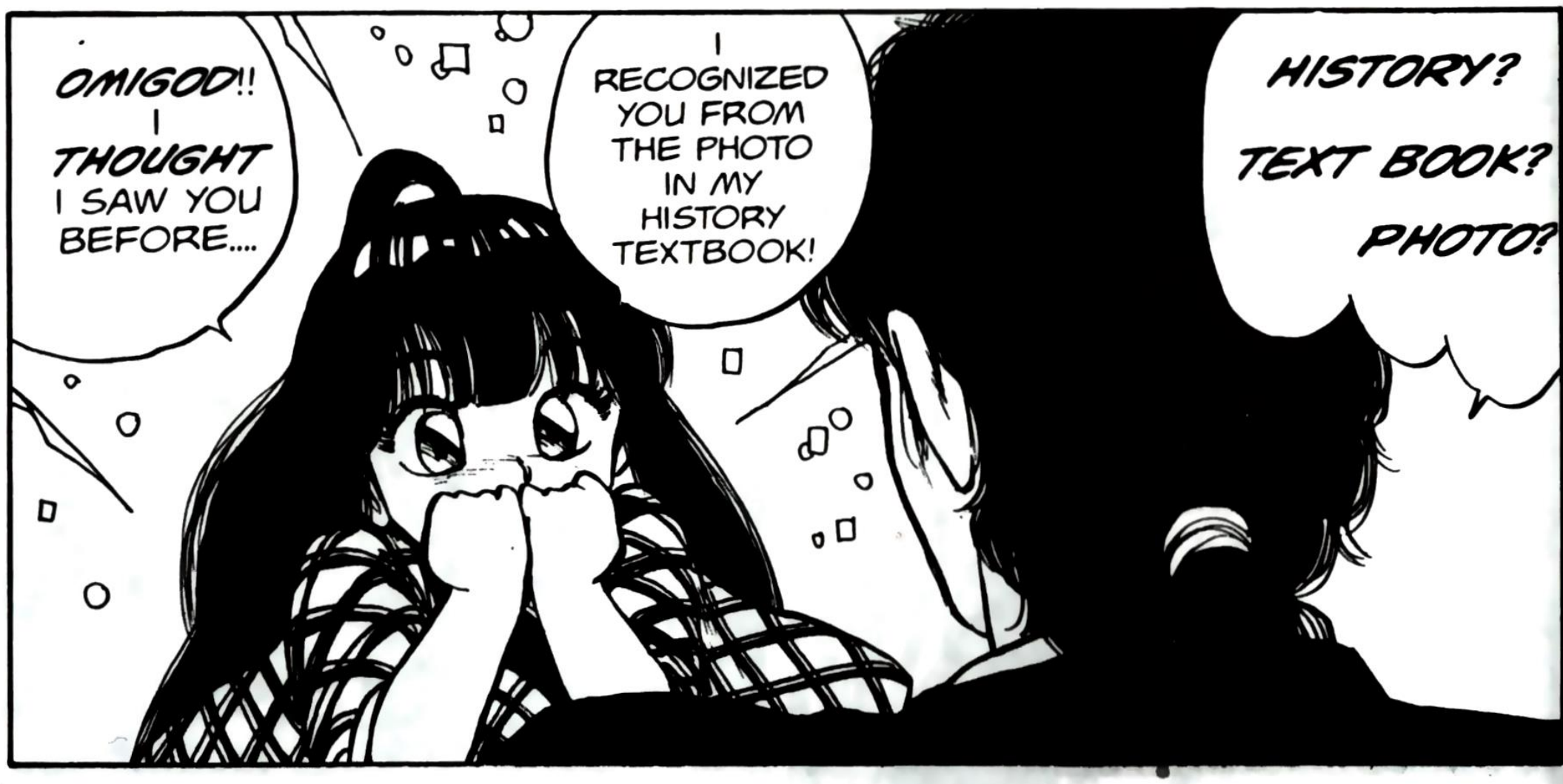
HEY, GIRL... DO YOU HAVE A BACK ENTRANCE?

UH...YES, OVER HERE.





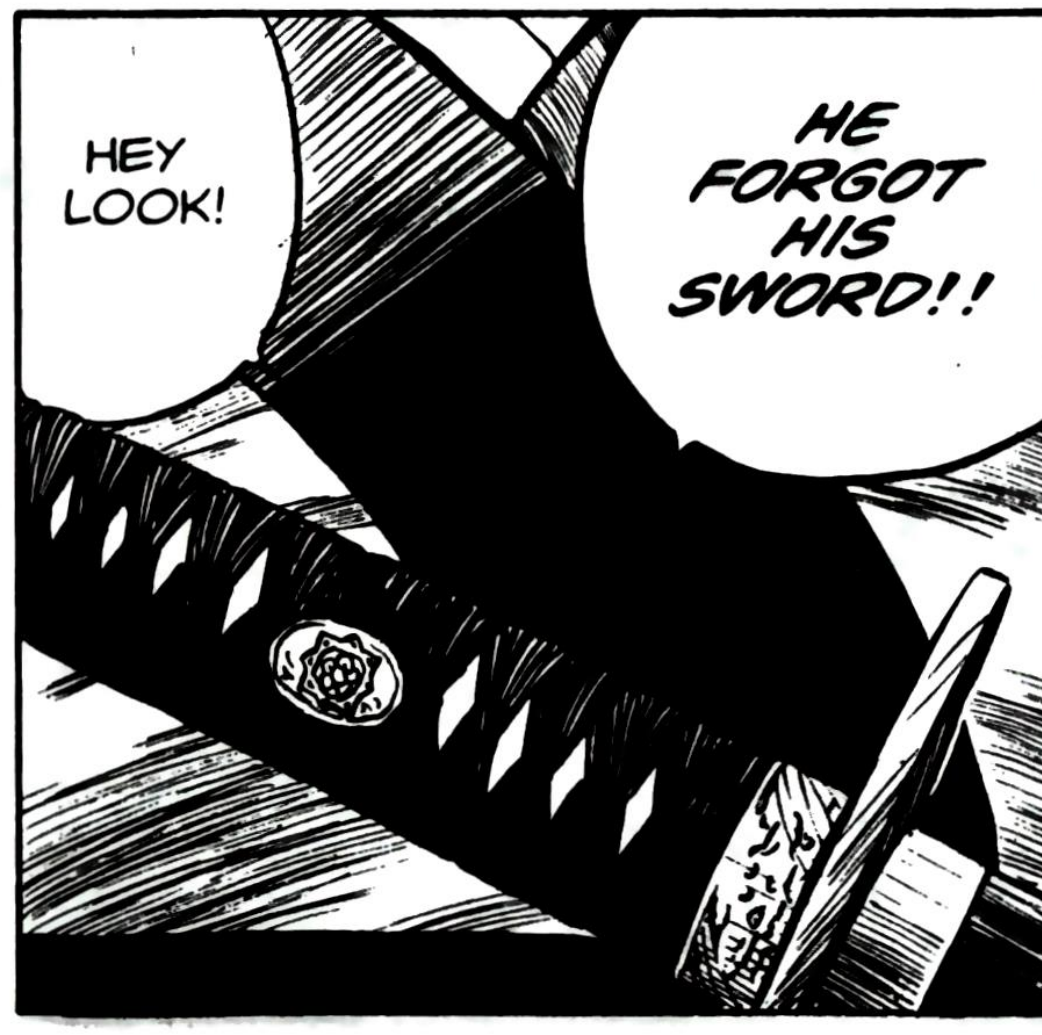
*** For a samurai, escaping from his fief is a felony, because it means he has abandoned his lord.**


OMIGOD!! I THOUGHT I SAW YOU BEFORE....
I RECOGNIZED YOU FROM THE PHOTO IN MY HISTORY TEXTBOOK!
HISTORY? TEXT BOOK? PHOTO?

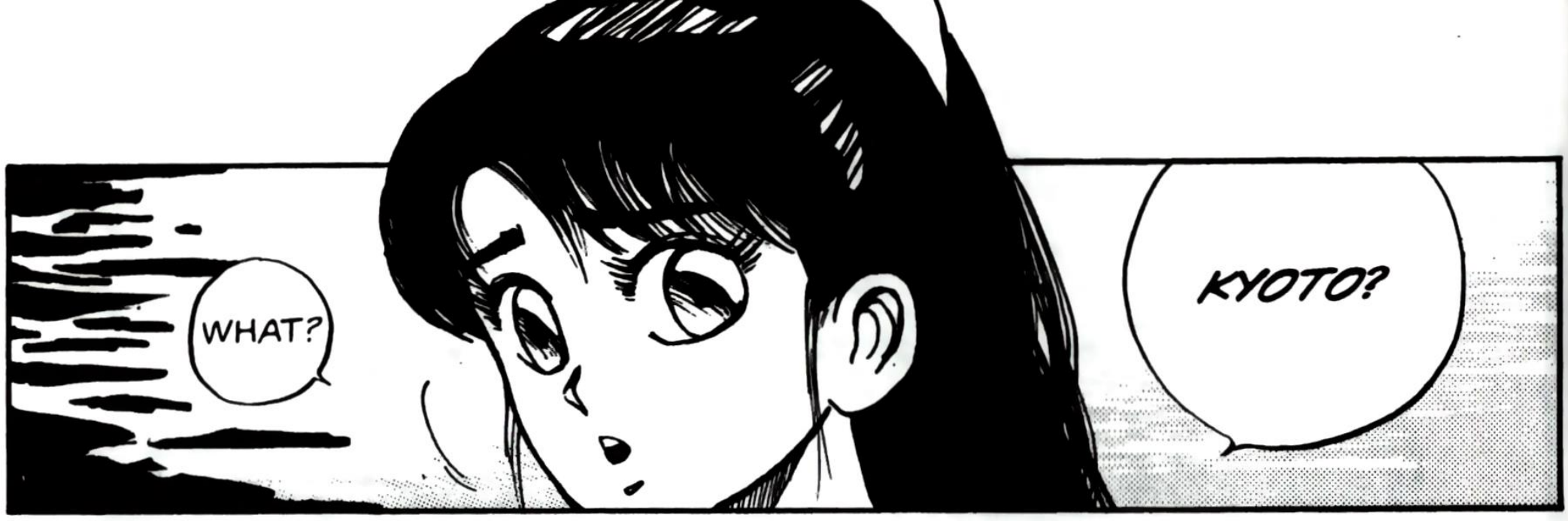
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
DO YOU MEAN I'LL CARVE MY NAME IN THE HISTORY? YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING!
YES YOU WILL! YOU'LL BE A SYNONYM FOR A FAMOUS PERSON!
NOT ONLY IN TEXT BOOKS, BUT ALSO MOVIES, TV DRAMAS, AND COMICS TOO.

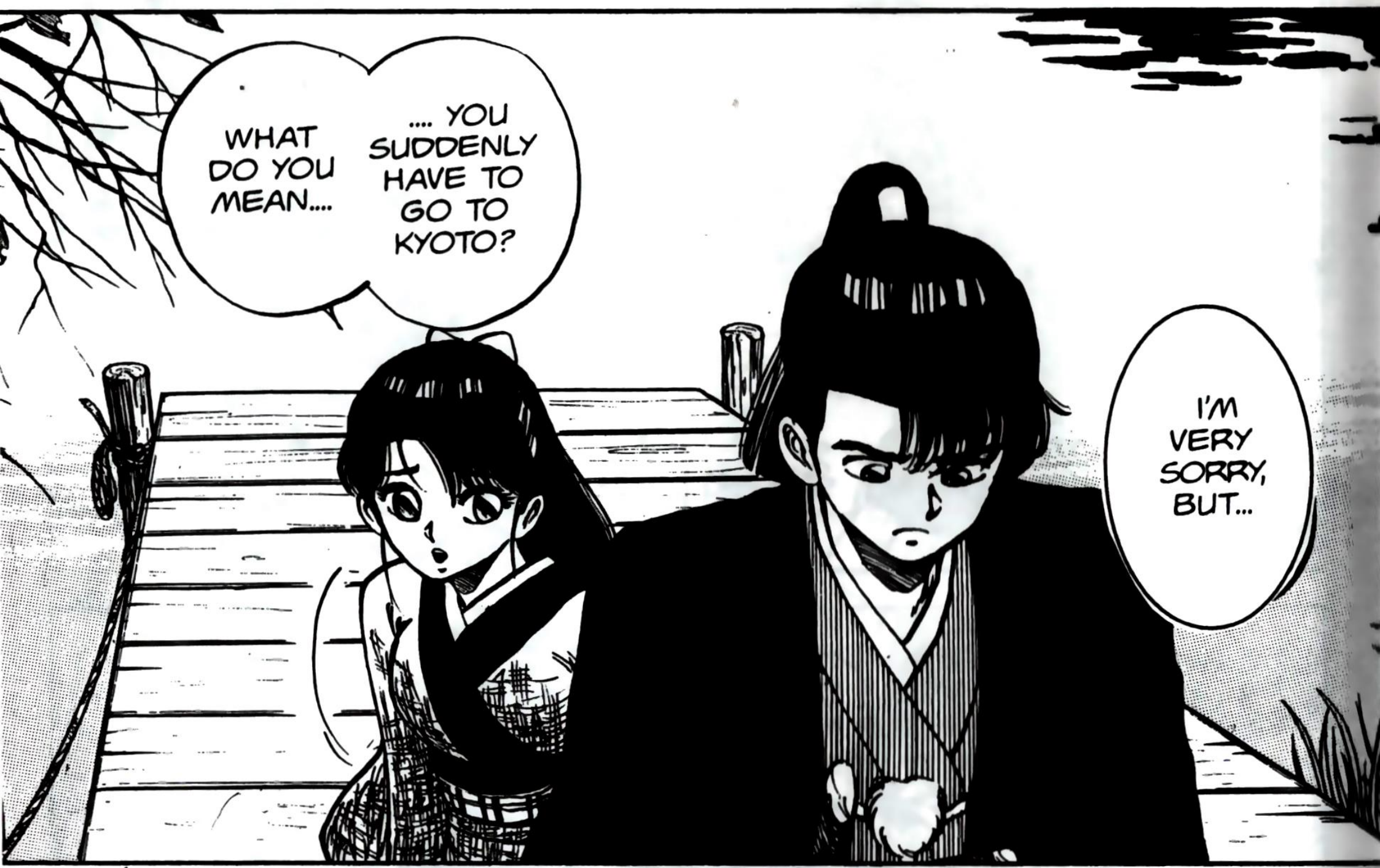
COMIC? MOVIE? TV? WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT? IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE.
YOU'RE A FUNNY GIRL.

THERE HE IS!!
OH!
I GOTTA GO! THANKS-ALOTGO-ODBYE!!

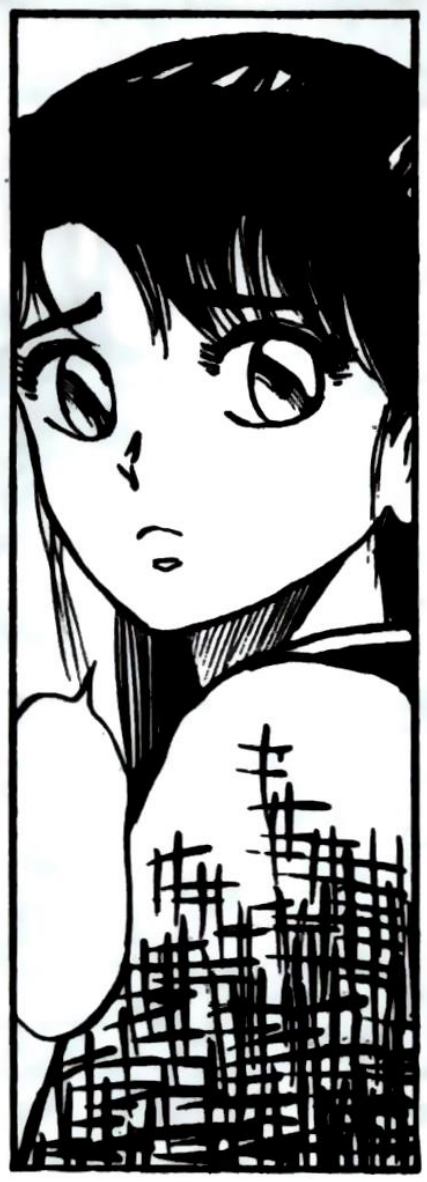


*"The sword is the soul of the samurai". This is what every Japanese believed during the Tokugawa period (1600-1867). A samurai must never forget his sword, so what Ryoma did here is a very shameful thing. He deserves to die for this, but Ryoma never cared about such silly customs. He often forgot his sword. He always loved practical things and held silly traditions in contempt.

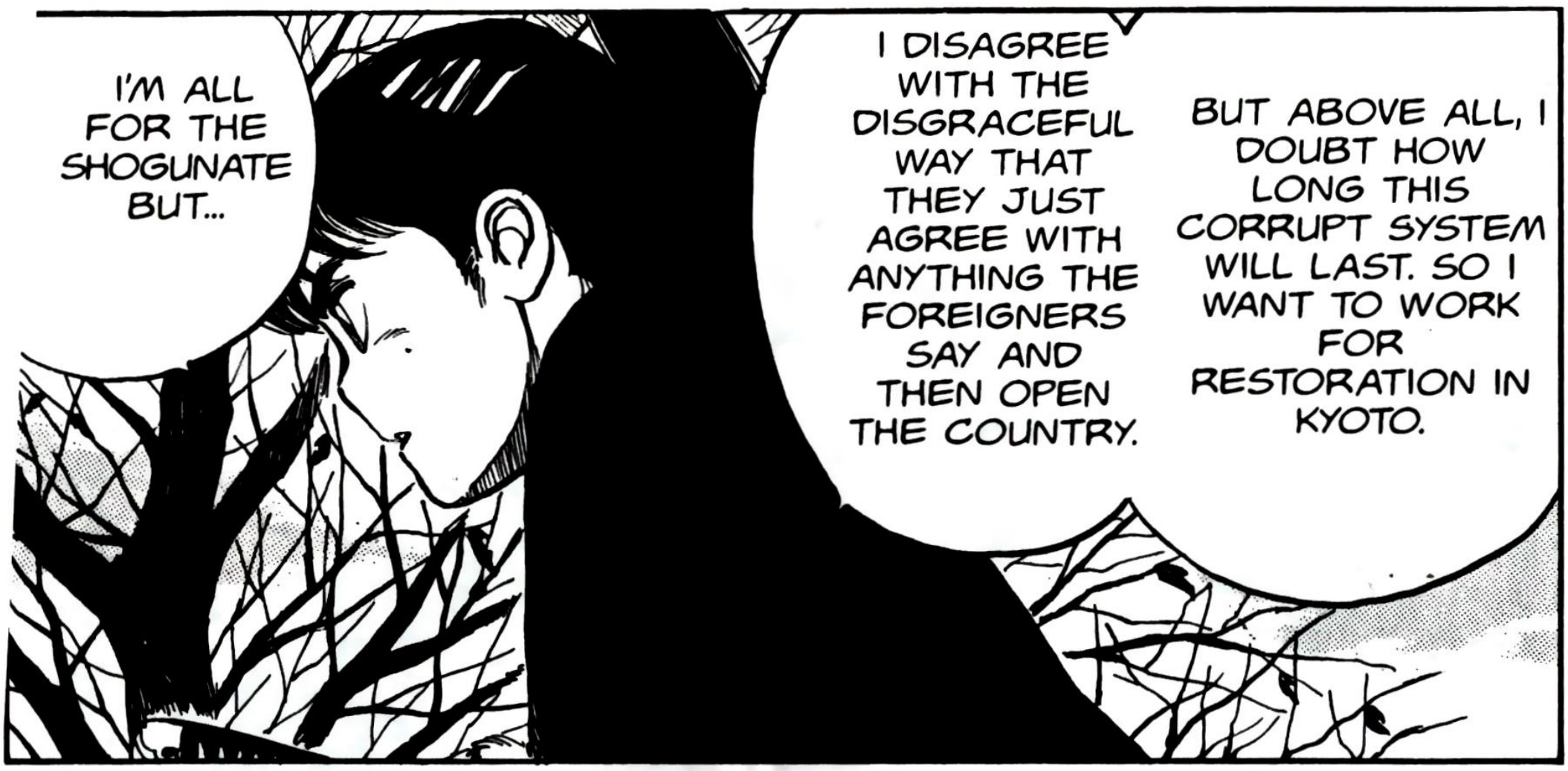

WHAT?
KYOTO?

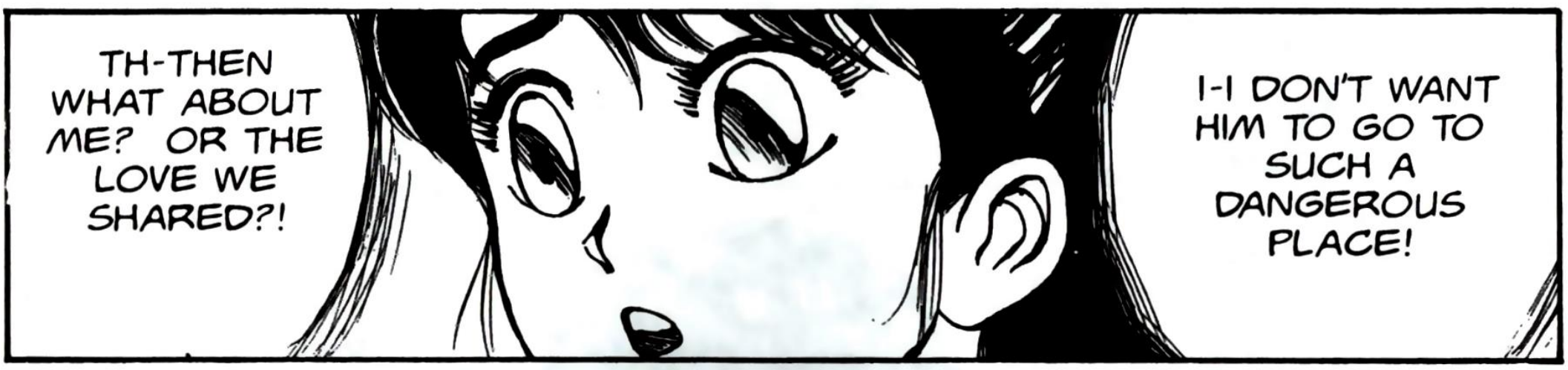

WHAT DO YOU MEAN....
.... YOU SUDDENLY HAVE TO GO TO KYOTO?
I'M VERY SORRY, BUT...

WHEN...
WHEN THE NATION IS STRUGGLING TO REFORM...



I-I BELIEVE I CAN'T WASTE TIME DOING NOTHING ...
THE SHOGUNATE REFUSES TO FIGHT THE UNITED STATES EVEN WHEN THEY THREATEN US.





*** Why would he go to Kyoto? Because Kyoto was where the emperor lived. In the early 17th century, the Tokugawa shogunate moved the capitol to Edo(Tokyo) from Kyoto. Edo was the capitol of Japan for a long period of time, but as the restoration movement started, many people (mostly samurai) moved to Kyoto to support it. The Shogunate established a special police force called the Shinsen-gumi to arrest those who were against the Shogunate. (But actually, most rebels were killed.)**

YOU...

YOU'RE JUST DANCING TO THEIR TUNE.

WHAT?!

THINK ABOUT IT!!

BE A MAN!

DO YOU REALLY THINK JAPAN COULD EXPEL THE FOREIGNERS NOW?! THINK GLOBALLY!!

I GOTTA USE MALE LOGIC

HUH?!

.....

TIMES ARE DEFINITELY CHAOTIC WHAT WITH THE RESTORATION MOVEMENT GETTING SO SEVERE! I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU WANT TO BE A PART OF THINGS, BUT IN CONFUSING TIMES SUCH AS THESE, YOU HAVE TO BE REALISTIC AND REMAIN STEADY!

DON'T YOU REALIZE YOU HAVE TO TAKE AN INTERNATIONAL VIEW OF THIS SITUATION? AND WHAT CAN YOU *REALLY* DO IN KYOTO?

I AM A MAN!

NON, YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING!

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO DOESN'T KNOW! ACTUAL WAR POWER ISN'T THE ONLY WAY FOR THE RESTORATION!

THE JAPANESE SHOULDN'T FIGHT AMONGST THEMSELVES! THE UNITED STATES IS EXPECTING JAPAN TO LOSE ITS POWER IN A CIVIL WAR! YOU COULD LOSE YOUR LIFE IN A USELESS BATTLE!

I WOULD NOT REGRET GIVING MY LIFE FOR THE CAUSE OF THE RESTORATION!

A GIRL COULD NEVER UNDERSTAND THIS!!

IS THE RESTORATION MORE IMPORTANT THAN ME?!

YES!!

I'M NOT A COWARD WHO IS SO INFATUATED WITH A GIRL HE IGNORES HIS NATION'S PERIL!!

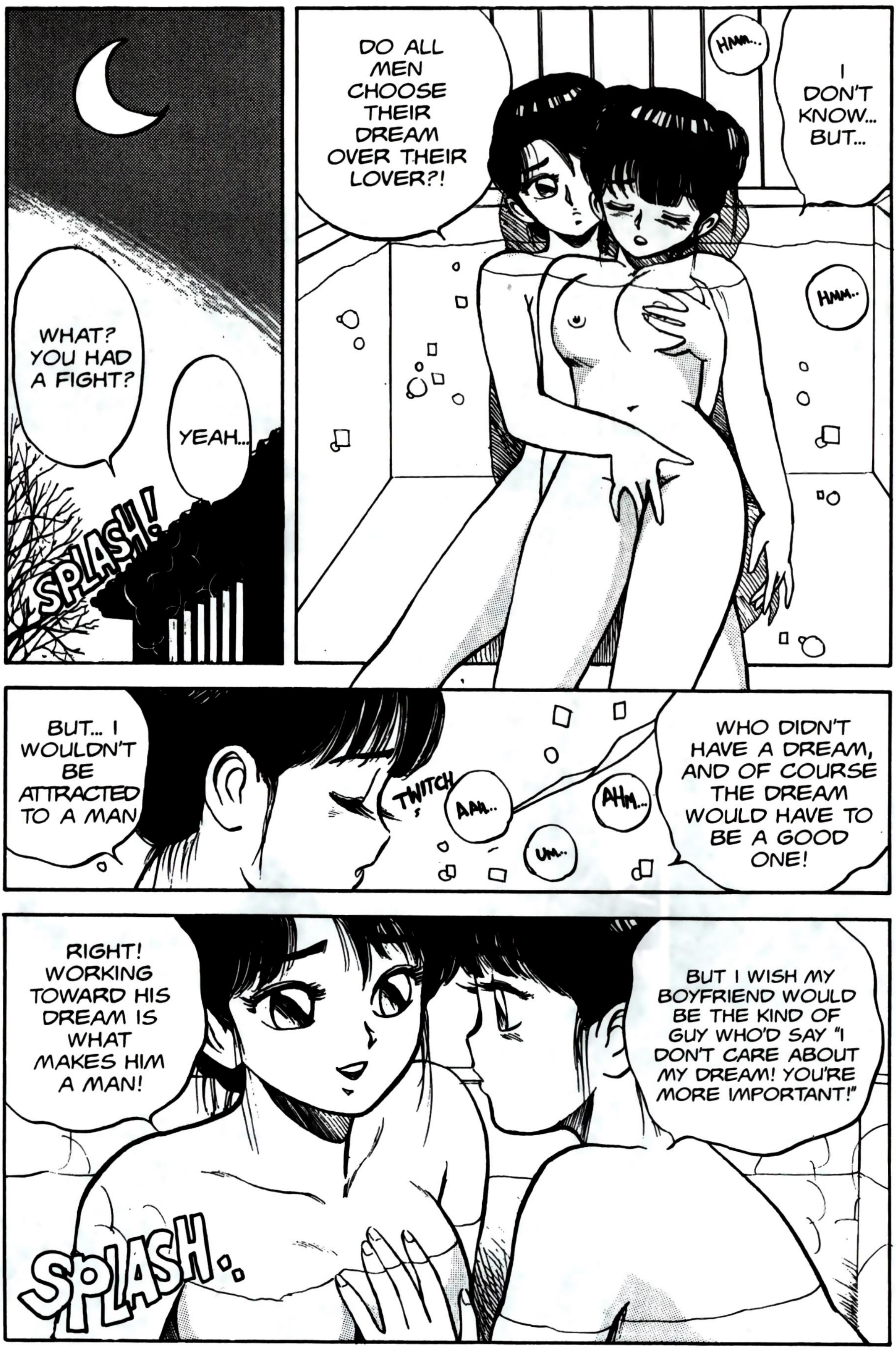
TURN

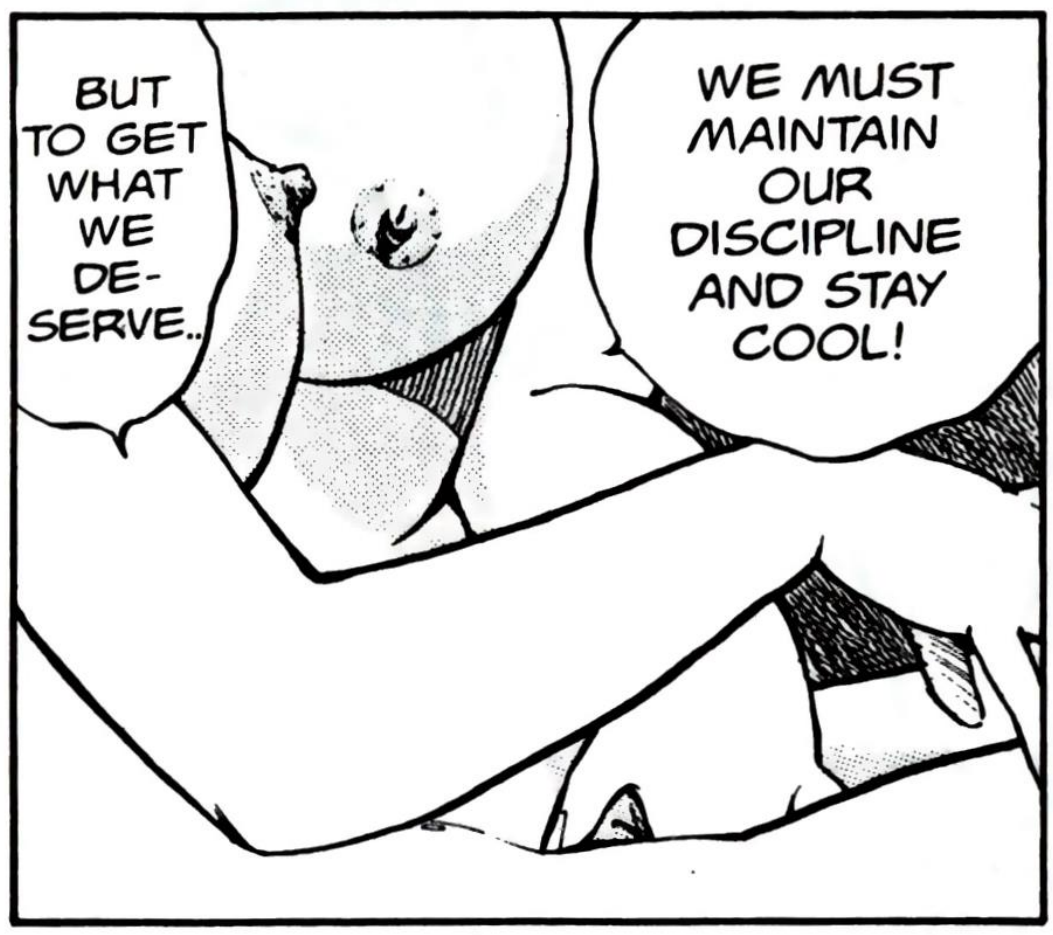
SO, LET'S HAVE SEX UNTIL I'M TOO TIRED TO WALK, AND THEN I'LL GO...

BONK!

.....

ERECT!


WHAT? YOU HAD A FIGHT?
YEAH...
SPLASH!
DO ALL MEN CHOOSE THEIR DREAM OVER THEIR LOVER?!
HMM...
I DON'T KNOW... BUT...
HMM..
BUT... I WOULDN'T BE ATTRACTED TO A MAN
TWITCH
AAH..
UM..
AHM...
WHO DIDN'T HAVE A DREAM, AND OF COURSE THE DREAM WOULD HAVE TO BE A GOOD ONE!
RIGHT! WORKING TOWARD HIS DREAM IS WHAT MAKES HIM A MAN!
BUT I WISH MY BOYFRIEND WOULD BE THE KIND OF GUY WHO'D SAY "I DON'T CARE ABOUT MY DREAM! YOU'RE MORE IMPORTANT!"
SPLASH.



DON'T WORRY

SOME-DAY YOU AND MR. YAJIMA WILL MAKE LOVE.

Hmm

AH

oh

oh

plish

plish

Ah
Ah.
Ah..
Ah..
IT'S GOOD..
Ah..
OH, MELON, MY EAR...
oh..
Good...
OMGOD!
plish..
plish squish
squish
shulllp
NLLp
Yes...

WOW, YOUR CLITORIS IS GETTING SO HARD...

IT'S PRACTI-CALLY BOUNCING AGAINST MY PALM.

THAT'S BECAUSE... I COULDN'T HAVE SEX WITH HIM TODAY...

twitch

Ah..

Ah!

twitch...

Oh

Ah...

DO YOU CRAVE HIS PENIS SO MUCH?

NLLP

NLLP

YEAH... OH! YEAH, PEN-ETRATING, GRINDING, SLAMMING INTO ME....

Ah..

Hmm

LIKE THIS?

splash

splash

Ah...

Ah..

Y-YES, RIGHT!

Ah...

KLATNG WHAK! THUD!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
JESUS!
SHIT!

WHO...
KIG
IS IT?
!

OH, RYOMA!

SHH....

HEY, WHERE IS HE?!!
IT'S WEIRD. HE DISAPPEARED OVER THERE.

WILL YOU GIVE ME REFUGE?

THEY'VE FOUND ME!

DID YOU REALLY THINK THEY WOULDN'T? OF COURSE WE WILL, YOU'RE SO OBNOXIOUS!

COME, THIS WAY!

OPEN THE DOOR!

HAHAH WHAH

WH

IS ANY-ONE HERE?!

HA WA

GO AHEAD AND SMASH THE DOOR!!

SLAM

TAKE THAT WAY!

MOVE IT! HURRY

SPLASH

ZSSS

HE MUST BE IN HERE!

RYOMA!

COME ON OU....

KLATT

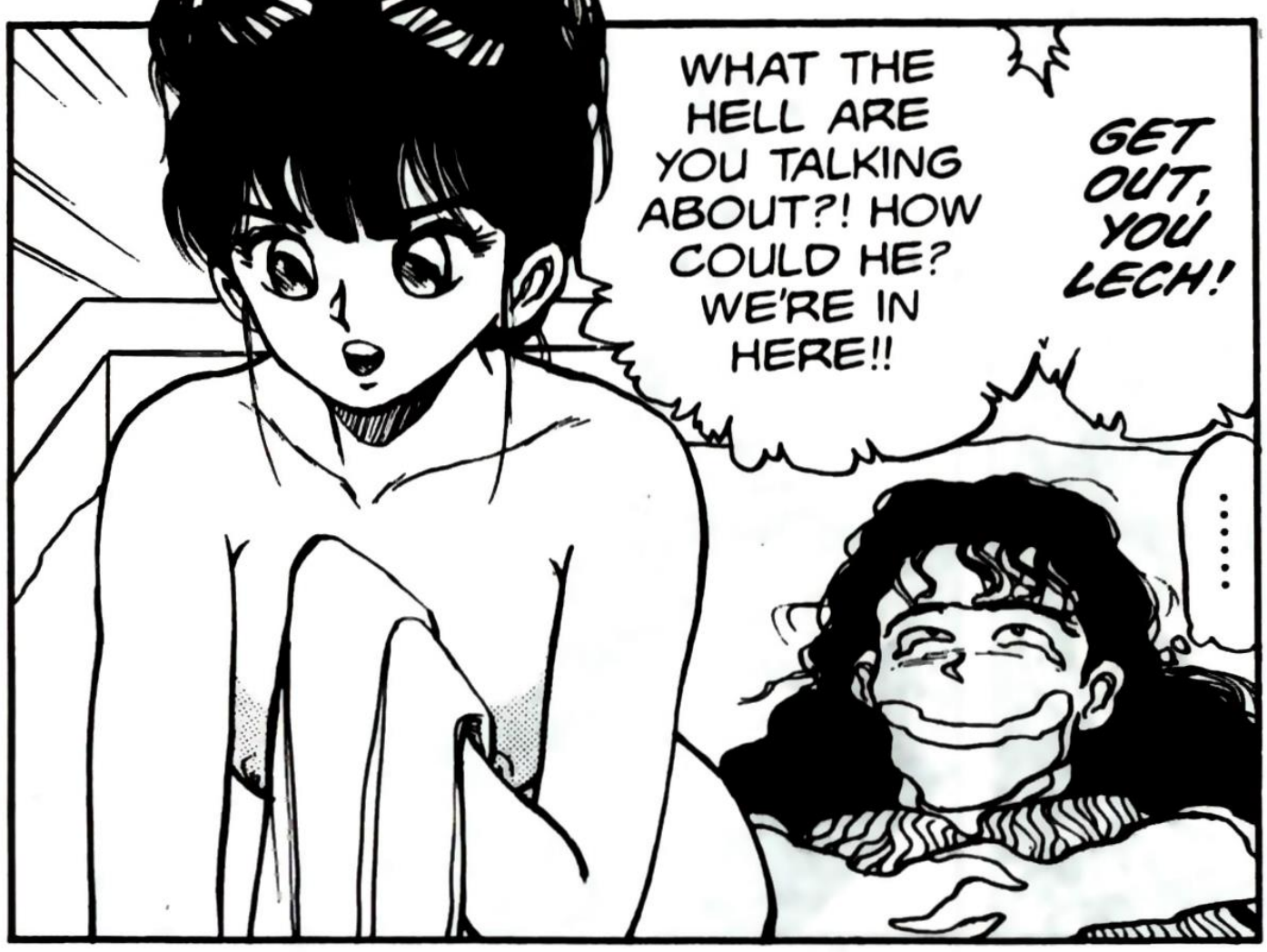
OW-OW-OW-WOW! BATHING...

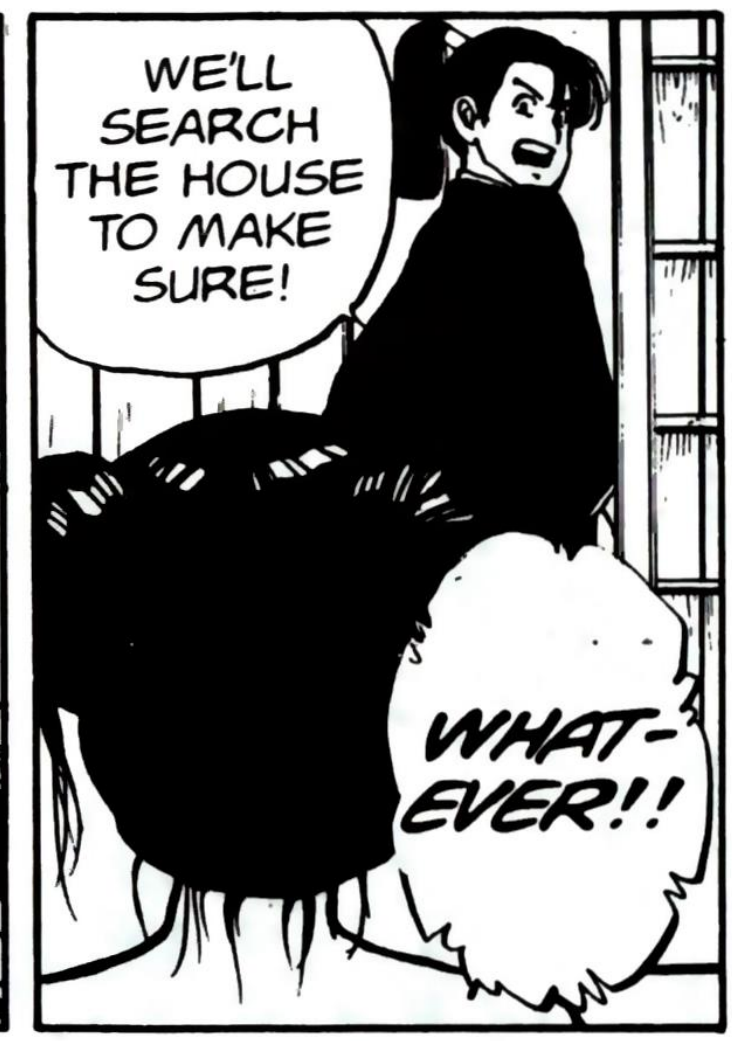
HEH, HEH

YOU PER-VERT!!

UH.... HAS A MAN RUN IN HERE?!

HEH HEH HEH...


WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! HOW COULD HE? WE'RE IN HERE!!
GET OUT, YOU LECH!
.....


WE'LL SEARCH THE HOUSE TO MAKE SURE!
WHAT-EVER!!

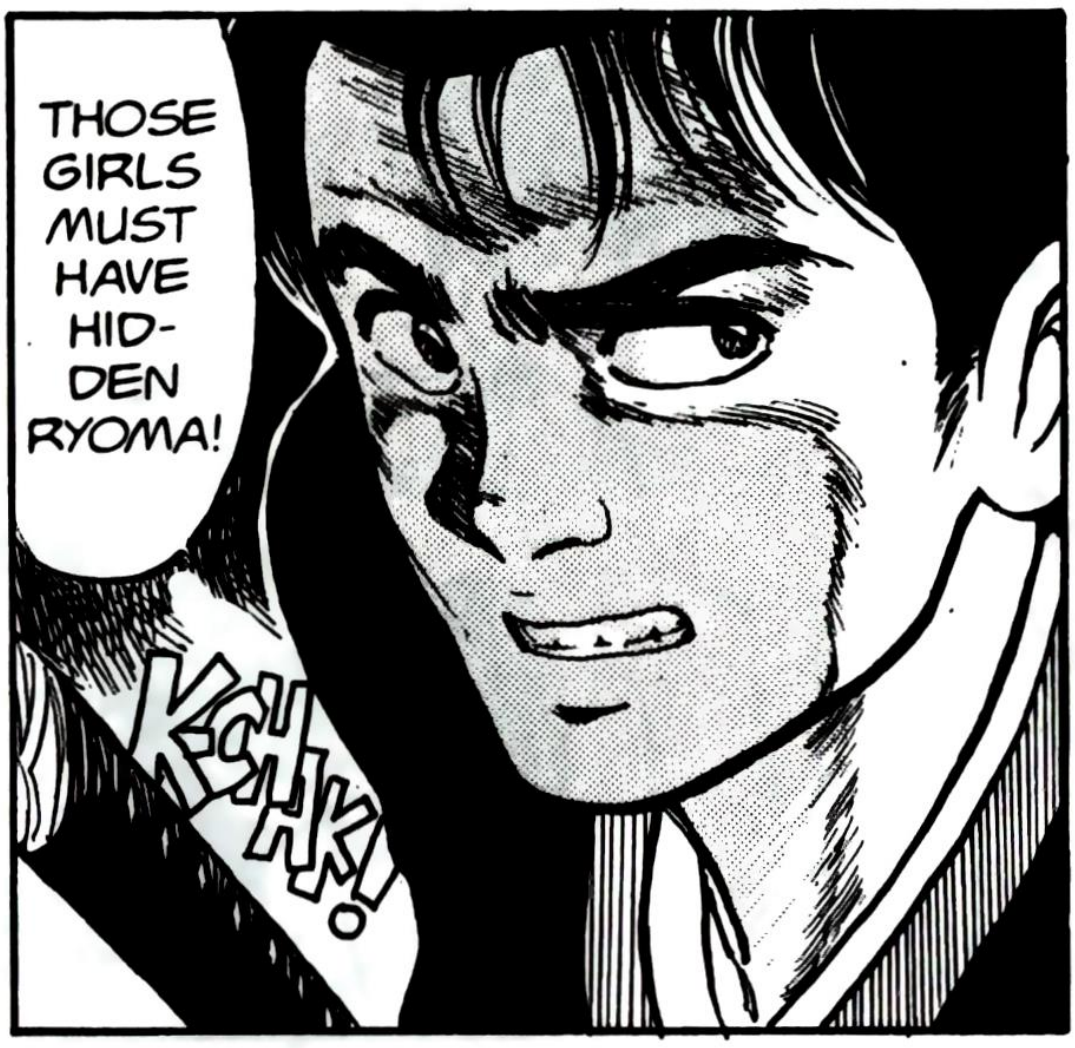
OH SHIT!!
RYOMA'S SWORD IS... IN OUR ROOM!
WHAT?!

YOU SEARCH THAT ROOM.
RIGHT

ZZZAP
NO!!
MELON... IF RYOMA WERE KILLED HERE...
IT WOULD CHANGE HISTORY!

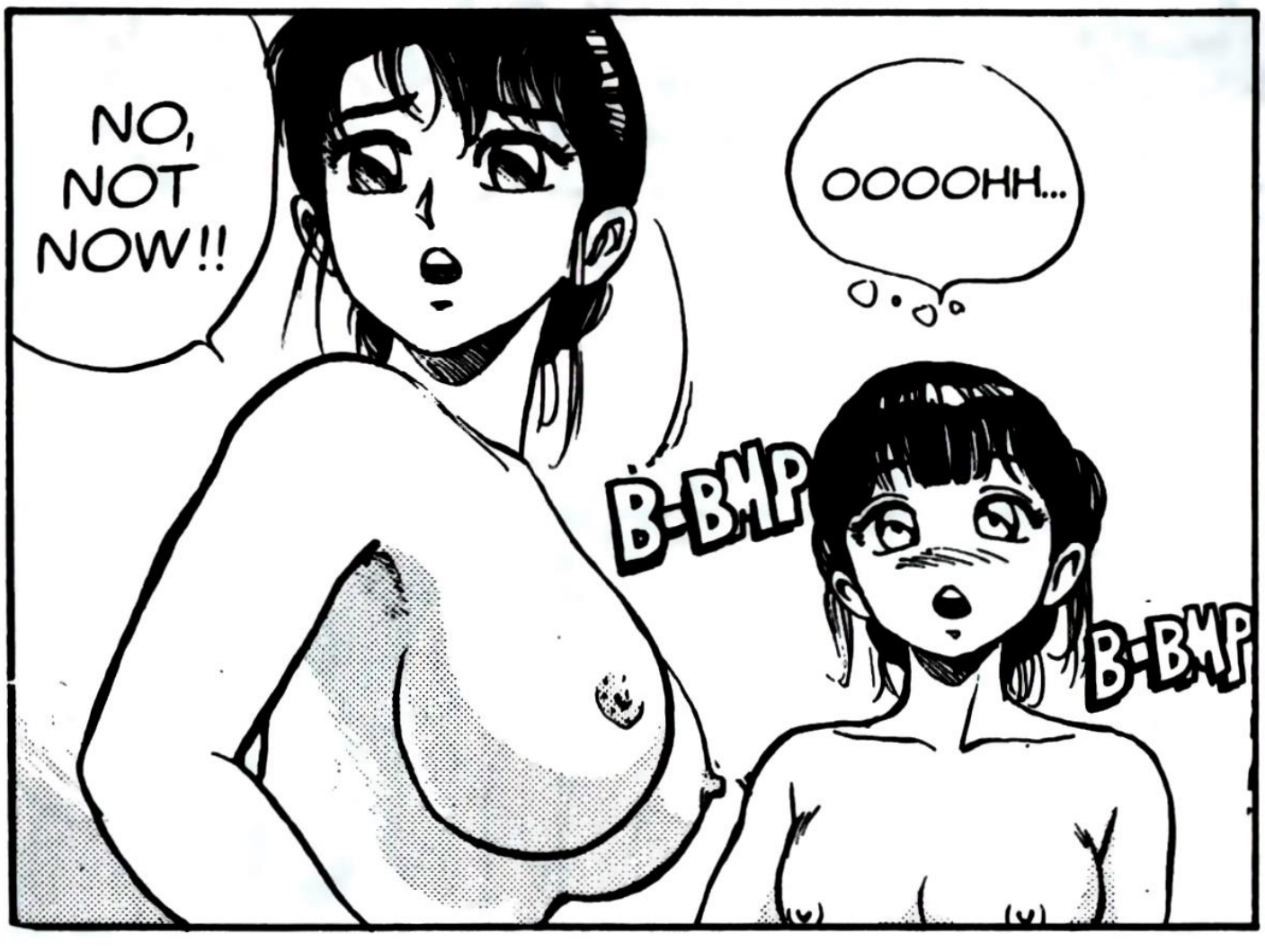
HEY, LOOK AT THIS YOSHIYUKI.

IT'S GOT RYOMA'S CREST!


THOSE GIRLS MUST HAVE HID-DEN RYOMA!
K-CHK!

ME-
MELON!

OHHH...
B-BUMP


NO, NOT NOW!!
OOOOHH...
B-BMP
B-BMP

...A-AIR....

POP POP POP POP POP POP POP POP POP POP

MR. YAJIMA.....

THIS ISN'T HOW IT USUALLY IS... SHE'S GLOWING!

IS HIS ANCESTOR NEAR?!

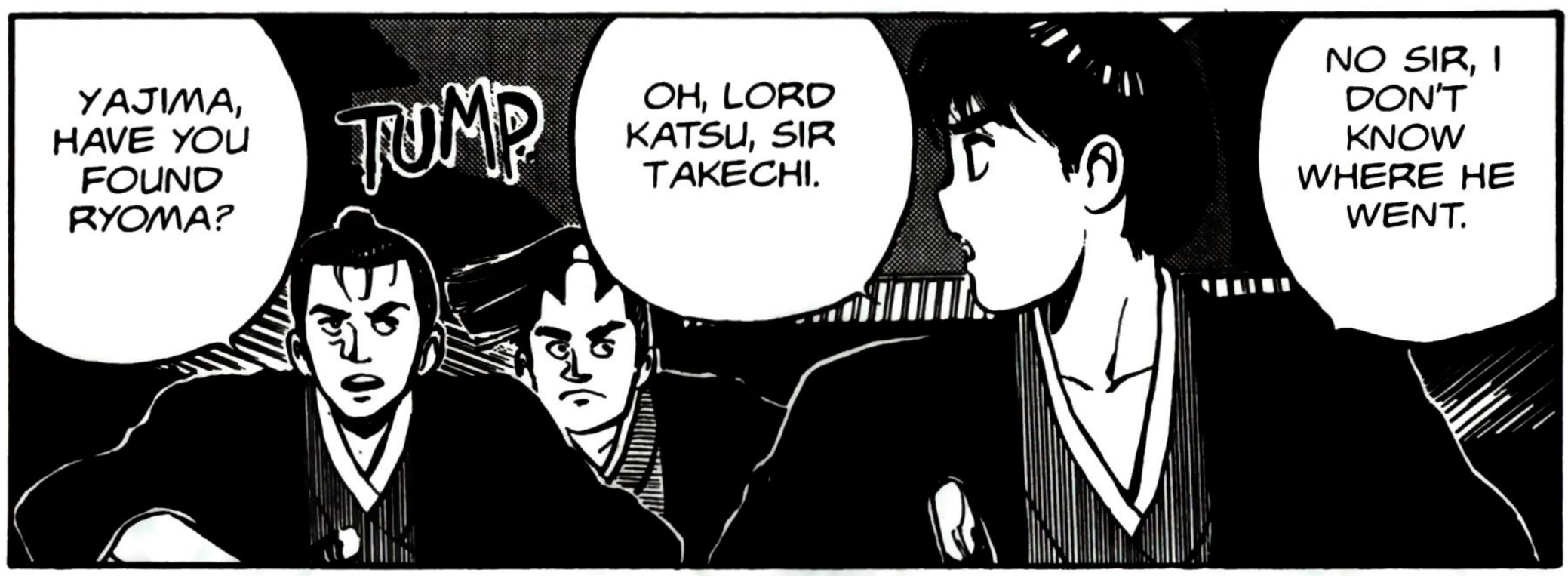
PHUH!!

SPLASH

OH, RYOMA...

I FOR-GOT YOU WERE HERE!

GASP GASP
I THOUGHT I WAS GONNA DIE!
POP
POP
POP
POP
SPLASH
HUH?
NO!!
M-MELON!! WHAT THE HELL IS THIS, NON?!
PLASH
PLASH
UM....
THIS IS NORMAL FOR HER... JUST IGNORE IT.
TH-TH-THIS IS NORMAL? SHE'S SHINING...
I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS!
THERE'S NO WAY I COULD IGNORE IT...


YAJIMA, HAVE YOU FOUND RYOMA?
TUMP
OH, LORD KATSU, SIR TAKECHI.
NO SIR, I DON'T KNOW WHERE HE WENT.

IF ONLY I COULD HAVE KNOWN THE ASSASSINS WOULD BE IN EDO...
THERE'S NO TIME FOR REGRET. WE MUST FIND HIM. WE CAN'T LET HIM DIE NOW.

RYOMA! COME OUT!! WE KNOW YOU'RE IN THE BATH!
SWISH

OOPS. THEY FOUND ME.
THEY PROBABLY FOUND YOUR SWORD.
YOU MEAN I LEFT IT HERE?!

POP POP POP POP POP

ZAP

!

FLASH

M-MELON!

S-SHE'S FLOATING!!

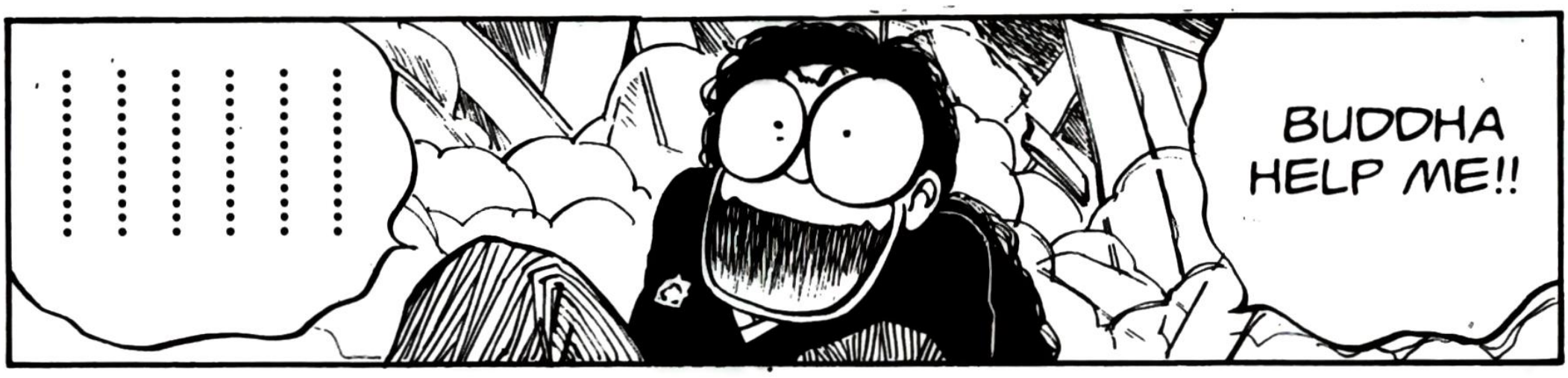
WHAT'S THAT LIGHT?!!

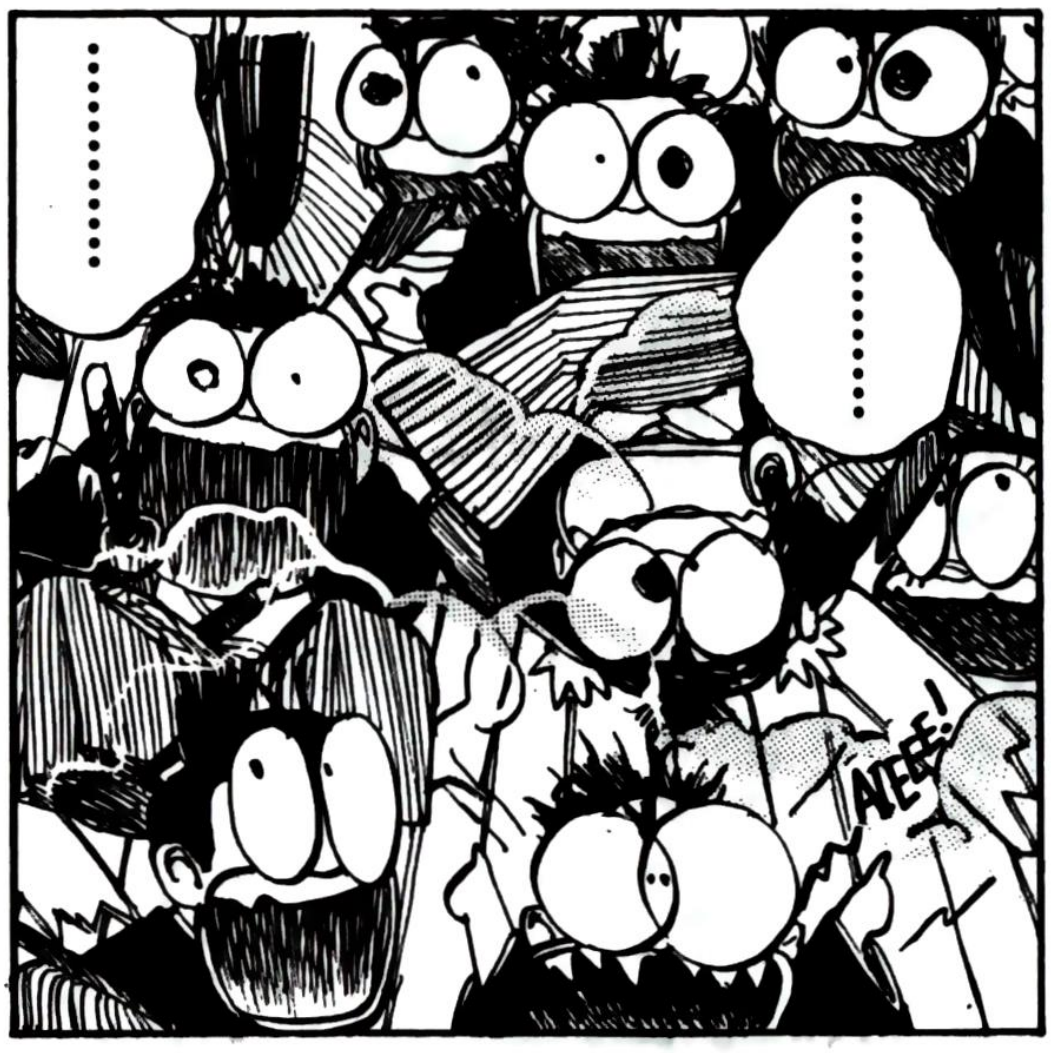
FLASH

LORD KATSU, WHAT IS THAT?!

YAJIMA, TAKECHI! LET'S CHECK IT OUT!

STROOM
WHOOM
ME
LOON!
NO!
KRAKOOM
AIEE!
ABUH
WHOOM
Oh No!





TO BE CONTINUED!!

SOME IMPORTANT NOTES FOR UNDERSTANDING THIS ISSUE

by Kuni Kimura

When the United States Navy came to Japan with a letter from the president in 1853, they intimidated Japan into opening the country, and the Shôgunate accepted some very humiliating tariffs. The U.S.'s methods outraged the Japanese. Many became extremely angry at Americans, Europeans (European nations such as France and England did the same thing to Japan later) and a Shôgunate that had abandoned its national pride and caved in to the U.S. All the Japanese who wanted the nation to keep its independence and pride started a movement to restore the Emperor's power to combat that of the foreign nations'. This movement was known as *Sonnô-Jôi* ("Revere the Emperor, expel the barbarians"), and those participating in it were known as *shishi* ("noble minded patriots," men serving to restore national pride). However, these people did not realize how strong the western nations were. They thought they with their samurai swords could easily defeat the westerners with their rivles, cannons and warships. **Ryôma Sakamoto**, the greatest figure of the Japanese restoration of 1868 and the greatest Japanese hero of all time, was one of these people.

Originally from the fiefdom of Tosa (now Kochi Prefecture), he was at first very conservative like other shishi, believing that Japan could expel the foreigners with the help of his swordsmanship. However, he later learned that the Europeans had highly advanced technology and decided that Japan should open its doors to gain this technology for themselves and use it against the Europeans. However, the Shôgunate was too corrupt to properly handle foreign relations, and in fact agreed to the extremely unfair tariffs mentioned above, tariffs that included Japan being unable to exercize any judicial power over Americans or put import taxes on any American products. Sakamoto therefore decided to reform Japan so it could participate in the world community, which meant defeating the Shôgunate and establishing a new government headed by the Emperor. To achieve his goal, he not only abolished the Shôgunate, he also translated public international law into Japanese, planned a new modern government body, and generally tried to reform almost everything. (Incidentally, he and his wife Oryo were the first Japanese couple to have a honeymoon.)

However, even these acts are not what made him so remarkable. The most honorable of his efforts was to attain perfect equality in Japan. No one else in that era had thought to create a democratic society. Other men working for the restoration had no clear idea of what the new government would be like; they just thought they'd create another Shôgunate. It is for promoting this ideal that Sakamoto is considered to be Japan's greatest hero.

Sakamoto left his fief to participate in the movement on March 24, 1863 because his lord, **Toyoshige Yodo Yamanouchi** (Yodo was his pen name. Such pen names were common because samurai were also good poets.) and minister, **Motokichi Toyo Yoshida** (Toyo was his pen name), were favored in the Shôgunate. A few days after Sakamoto left, Fief Minister Yoshida was assassinated, and the Tosa government suspected Ryôma of being the culprit because of his anti-Shôgunate leanings. (This is why he is being chased on page 2 of this issue.)

Sakamoto was assassinated on the night of November 15, 1867 by the Tokugawa Shôgunate's special police force, the *Mimawari-gumi* (which simply means "patrol team").

A close friend of Sakamoto's was **Rintarô Yoshikuni Awanokami Kaishû Katsu** (Awanokami was his Imperially granted title; Kaishû was his pen name), the Minister of the Navy for the Tokugawa Shôgunate. Despite Sakamoto's feelings against the Shôgunate, he and Katsu got along because Katsu also felt that the government had become too corrupt to handle the situation, and the reformist's liberal and flexible personality appealed to him. It was through Katsu's support that a poor samurai like Sakamoto was able to achieve the things he did.

Another of Ryôma's best friends was **Hanpeita Zuizan Takechi**, nicknamed **"The Jaw"** (*Agi* in Japanese) for his square-jawed countenance. He established an organization known as the *Tosa Kinnô-tô* (Tosa Emperor-Worshippers' Party) to support the restoration movement, but was arrested for killing Yoshida—an act actually committed by his followers on his orders—and ordered by his lord to commit *seppuku* (suicide by cutting open his own stomach).

Yoshiyuki is a samurai swordsmith who worked in the mid-1600's. Originally from Edo (Tokyo), he later moved to Tosa. He produced very high quality swords, which were properly called Mutsunokami Yoshiyuki, though the sword in this story is just called "Yoshiyuki" for short.

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